

PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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*Celebrating Our
60TH
Anniversary*

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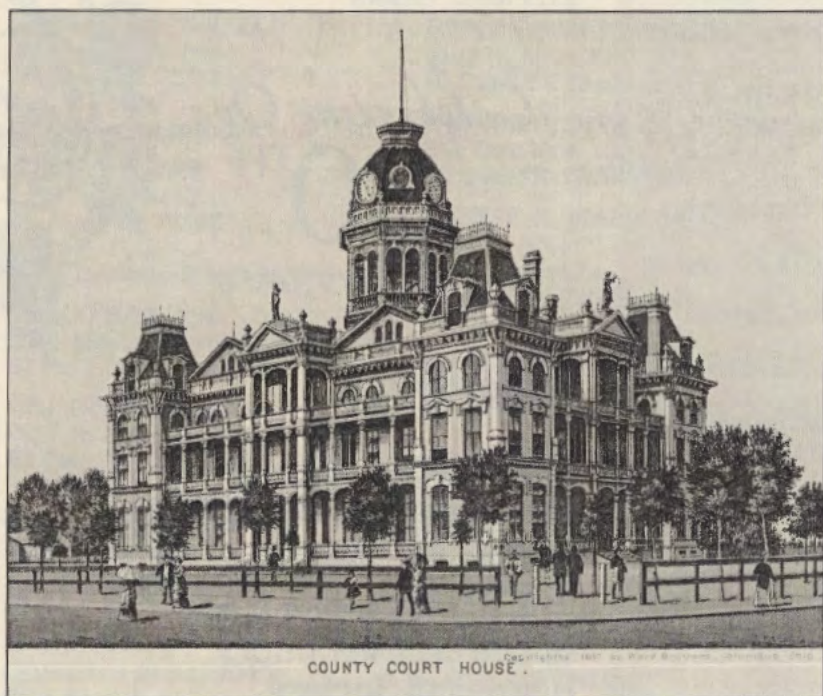
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and
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AND LIFE



*Photograph of the County Court House, El Paso and Ciudad Juárez
souvenir album published in 1905.*

Photo courtesy of the Worthington Collection.

*Featured in Publicity Brochures Produced to Advertise
El Paso Before 1935, page 62 of this issue.*

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The Origins of the Historical Society of El Paso

By Monica A. Hunter, *Historian*

Mrs. Frank H. Hunter was the first recording secretary for the El Paso County Historical Society. She also served as its Historian and left this account in the Society's records.



In all probability, the first historical society in El Paso County was located at Hueco Tanks, where the first historian accounted for several paintings and markings on the walls of the caves and cisterns. From that early beginning, a full-fledged and functioning historical society, as such, has been developing but has been through several stages prior to its final organization in the one we now have.

The first mention of a historical society, in the past as well as in the present, has meant the preservation of things historical, that is, the historical places, the objects around which history has been made, as well as recollections and stories regarding early times. As an example, on Tuesday, May 10, 1904, pursuant to a call published in the daily paper, between 50 and 60 persons met in the City Council Chamber to form a pioneer association. From the notes of that organizational meeting the following appears:

It was suggested that the society might collect old relics such as a wooden-wheeled cart, a Mexican wooden plow, an old ox yoke, large wine press, and so forth. Dr. Alexander, S. H. Newman and others suggested the preservation of old photographs, descriptions of old adobe houses, and so forth, and it was suggested that the president should be chosen from among the oldest residents of El Paso---

Apparently, one reason for the pioneer association appreciating the fact that there was a necessity of preserving historical

data and objects was the fact that most of the people in El Paso in 1904 had come to the City relatively recently. The minutes of the pioneer association show that most of the people came to El Paso around 1881, and the result of it was they had seen this community develop so rapidly that they wanted to preserve for just such a society as we now have some of the old relics and history as they had seen it develop. The Pioneer Association is still in existence, but its main purpose was not, as ours, a historical society. And so, over the years, there have been many people who have felt the need of a historical society, and have deplored the lack of interest in historical things in El Paso. It was with this impetus that in the early part of September 1953, Cleofas Calleros started talking to Mrs. Helen Farrington, Leslie Reed and many others about interesting people in a historical society. At about this same time it was most provident that the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce had adopted as their program or theme for that year "Show El Paso to El Pasoans." It was then, on October 13, 1953, that Mr. Calleros was invited by Mrs. T. W. Lanier to participate in a pioneer's program in the Victory Room of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Women's Department of the Chamber of Commerce. At that time, Mr. Calleros passed on to this group of women the problems and the necessity for a historical society to care for things historical in El Paso.

Officially, the, this society was actually commenced on January 19, 1954, at 9:30 A.M., at a meeting called in the home of Mrs. Willard Schuessler, at which were present Mrs. T. W. Lanier, Mr. J. Page Kemp, Mrs. Andy Fuentes, Cleofas Calleros, and Mrs. Frank Hunter. Much remained to be done, however, before the society was a reality. The project of the year for the Civic Improvement Committee of the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce was the formation of the Historical Society. Invitations were sent out by Mrs. C. H. Gabriel under date of March 12, 1954, to a very large mailing list of El Pasoans inviting them to become charter members of the Historical Society. The response was more than gratifying—it was amazing.

A great deal of publicity was given to the organization of the society, and a meeting held on April 26, 1954, at the chamber of Commerce, with Mrs. Willard Schuessler chosen by the founding committee presiding as temporary Chairman, at which time it was voted that this Society would meet in April, July, October and January and that at the next meeting in July the officers and

Board of Directors would be elected. A committee was appointed to write a constitution and by-laws for the Historical Society to present to the July meeting. On that committee were Allen Sayles, chairman, Mrs. R. E. Sherman, Mrs. T. W. Lanier, Mr. Clinton Hartman, and Mr. Frank Hunter. The constitution and by-laws were presented and adopted at the July 26, 1954, meeting, and Mrs. J. Harold Kitchen presented the slate of officers. Mr. Paul Heisig was elected President, First Vice-President Mrs. Willard Schuessler, Second Vice-President Mrs. T. W. Lanier, Third Vice-President Mr. Cleofas Calleros, Recording Secretary Mrs. Charles Gabriel, Corresponding Secretary Mrs. J. R. Payne, Treasurer Mr. Chris Fox, Curator Mrs. Helen Farrington, Historian Mrs. Frank Hunter. In addition, the following were elected directors: Steve Aguirre, Mrs. John L. Ballantyne, Mr. Joe Goodell, Mr. W. J. Hooten, Mrs. C. M. Newman, Mr. Tom Patterson, and Col. M. H. Tomlinson to serve for three years; Mrs. George Brunner, Dr. Paul Gallagher, Miss Margarita Gomez, Mr. Carl Hertzog, Mayor Fred Hervey, Mrs. J. W. Lorentzen, and Mrs. Carl Sonnichsen to serve for two years, and Mr. Leonard Goodman, Sr., General Ralph Meyer, Mrs. Hugh Myer, Mrs. Jack Ponder, Mr. Juan Stockmeyer, Mr. Karl Wyler, Jr., and Mrs. Louis Zork to serve for one year. So, at 8 P.M., July 26, 1954, in the Victory Room of the Chamber of Commerce, the Historical Society that had actually been begun in January in the home of Mrs. Willard Schuessler was a full-fledged reality, with a constitution, by-laws, officers and directors, and was in business from then on.

The first general meeting of the Historical Society was held in the Victory Room of the Chamber of Commerce on April 26, 1954. To this date 240 persons had joined as charter members.

The second general meeting was held July 26, 1954 in the Victory Room. A slate of officers and a list of 21 directors were presented and were accepted by acclamation.

On November 11, 1954 the third general meeting was held in the El Paso Public Library. The organization had grown to 43 life members and 577 regular members. Mrs. Tom Charles of Alamo-gordo spoke of the ear settlers in the Tularosa Basin.

At the regular meeting on February 17, 1955 in the El Paso Public Library it was announced by Mrs. T. W. Lanier, membership chairman, that there were 700 charter members to date, making this the largest historical society in Texas. Mr. Heisig announced the appointment of Mrs. Ralph Hellums as Corresponding Secre-

tary and Publicity Chairman, Mrs. C. A. Goetting and Mr. Cleofas Calleros as Chairmen of the Committee on Historical Markers and Preservation of Relics, and Dr. Eugene Porter as Chairman of the Editorial Committee. The speaker of the evening was Mr. Lou Batchley who played some interesting recorded interviews with old timers in New Mexico. Mr. Batchley had formed the Pioneers Foundation, Inc. in New Mexico for the purpose of recording these interviews and keeping a library of them.

Under the supervision of Mr. Calleros bronze markers have been placed at the seven original missions of the El Paso Valley, including the Juárez Mission.

On September 14, 1955 the mule car which ran between El Paso-Juárez was placed in San Jacinto Plaza. A cast of the mule Mandy was given by the Odd Fellows Lodge #284. The Popular Dry Goods Company furnished a mannequin as the conductor of the car. Mr. J. B. Binkley and Mrs. Floyd Payne assisted in obtaining the car. The Sheriff's Posse and the mayors of Juárez and El Paso took part in the dedication which was attended by many El Pasoans including the families of Mr. Zach White and Judge Joseph Magoffin.

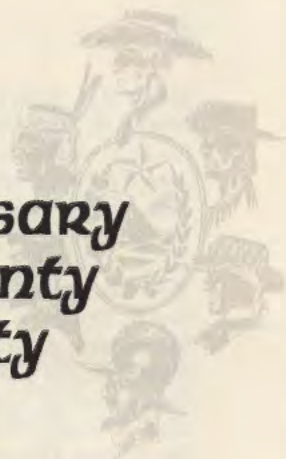
On September 22, 1954 a general meeting was held in the El Paso Public Library. The membership to this date included 716 persons, including 96 life members. A letter was read from the president of the New Messy [New Mexico] Pioneers Association. He thanked the El Paso Society for the \$ [no amount] it had given them for research and said that the recording of old timers were on file in Silver City but were the property of the El Paso Historical Society. Officers for 1956 were voted as follows: President Paul A. Heisig, First Vice-President Louise Schuessler, Second Vice-President Mrs. T. W. Lanier, Third Vice-President Cleofas Calleros; Recording Secretary Mrs. Frank Hunter; Corresponding Secretary Mrs. Ralph Hellums; Treasurer Chris Fox.

The Historical Society is looking forward to the dedication of the Southern Pacific steam engine to take place during the 75th anniversary of the coming of the railroad to El Paso.

Dr. Eugene Porter, speaker of the evening, read a paper written by Col. Albion Smith on the Salt War at San Elizario. Dr. Porter gave a report of the editorial committee and it was voted by the society that the first quarterly would be published in February 1956.

**All information is from the Pioneer Association Minutes.*

The 60th Anniversary of the El Paso County Historical Society Founded 1954



he Board of Directors was officially formed on February 17, 1955. The previous issue of *Password* (Vol. 58, No. 1) listed the first Officers, Board of Directors, and Board of Trustees. Following is a list of the Charter Members and Charter Life Members of the society.

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Mrs. William A. Glasier	Mr. & Mrs. Mac Murchison
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Goetting	Mr. & Mrs. John B. Neff
Miss Margarita Gomez	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Ortiz
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Gonzalez	Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Perry
Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Gorman	Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Peterson
Mrs. Louise Blumenthal Greenberg	Mr. & Mrs. Dan R. Ponder
Mr. & Mrs. T. C. Gunning	Mr. & Mrs. Carl Price
Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Jaynes	Mrs. Wip Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Harvey	Dr. & Mrs. Stephen A. Schuster
Mr. & Mrs. Paul A. Heisig, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Schwartz
Mr. & Mrs. R. T. Hoover	Mr. & Mrs. John H. Stockmeyer
Paul Kayser	Mrs. C. Robert Townsend
Mrs. R. B. Kimbrough	Mrs. W. W. Turney
Mrs. David Lerner	Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Vandevere
Mrs. K. D. Lynch	Mr. & Mrs. Jack C. Vowell
Mr. & Mrs. William B. Mayfield	Mrs. Sam Watkins
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh McMillan	Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Weaver
Rt. Rev. S. M. Metzger, Bishop	Mrs. Mary B. White
Gen. & Mrs. J. Ralph Meyer	Mrs. Florence Cathcart Melby
Mr. & Mrs. C. S. Mott	
(Ruth Rawlings)	

In Memoriam

JANE BONILLA

LOUIS BRECK

LYLE HOSMER

MARGARET MARSH

KATHLEEN MOORE

ALYN BROWN MORTON

CAROLYN G. PONSFORD



Anson Mills and the Platting of El Paso, 1858-1859

By Mark Cioc-Ortega



own planners prefer urban spaces that are logical and well ordered. A well-planned city is legible, above all, through its straight streets, regular-shaped plots, 90° intersections, and cardinal directions. Many property owners, however, do not share this love of outdoor geometry. For them, it's all about location, familiarity, and tradition. They see little reason to adjust property lines or relocate buildings when it might disadvantage them in some way. Better to keep the squiggly streets, the misshapen plots, the skewed orientations, than to risk being bypassed by the mathematics of progress.

Just ask Anson Mills, El Paso's first town planner. A military man and surveyor by profession, he arrived in the Texas town of El Paso (then more often called Franklin) in May 1858 and was soon hired by the town's principal land speculators to draw up a town "plat." A plat is a city blueprint: it plots out future streets, squares, and blocks so that city officials and property owners can plan for a town's orderly growth and simplify the sale of lots. Most planners in the United States lay out towns in grids, with uniform-sized blocks and straight streets, preferably along a north-south and east-west axis. Plats are simple to draw when the landscape is empty, but much harder (as Mills found out) when existing buildings and property lines have to be accommodated.

The fifty acres of land that Mills was entrusted to plat would later become the downtown business district of El Paso. It lay on the north side (left bank) of the Rio Grande, across from El Paso del Norte (modern-day Ciudad Juárez, Mexico), then as now the largest township in the area. The Texas town of El Paso was new,

having been established in the years 1848 to 1852, and it supported just a few hundred inhabitants, most of them of Mexican descent but also some adventuresome Anglos. But the land upon which the new town stood was anything but virgin soil. Native Americans had long called it home and much of the surrounding region was under the suzerainty of the Apaches, whose raiding parties still inflicted losses on the local Mexican and Anglo populations (including Emmett Mills, Anson's younger brother, who was killed while traveling through Arizona in 1861).¹ The land was claimed by Spain after Don Juan de Oñate passed through the Paso del Norte region in 1598 on his way to establishing "New Mexico," and it subsequently became part of the Republic of Mexico in 1821.

The basic contours of the future El Paso were prefigured in 1827 when Don Juan María Ponce de León, a prominent citizen of El Paso del Norte, gained title to around 200 acres of land on the north side of the Rio Grande and turned it into a working ranch that produced vegetables, fruits, wine grapes, grains, and feed grass (at least when the Apaches left his workers in peace). Unfortunately for Ponce, the U.S.-Mexico War (1846-1848) and the resulting Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo put his ranch on the American side of the new U.S.-Mexico border. Bowing to the inevitable, the Ponce family sold the acreage to Benjamin Franklin Coons in 1849 and then, when he defaulted, to William "Uncle Billy" Smith in 1853. Neither Coons nor Smith had the geometric mentality of a town planner. Coons leased around six acres to the U.S. Army for use as a military post from 1849 to 1851 and also added a few scattered buildings west of the post. Smith parceled off small plots of land in a helter skelter manner, paying little attention to the dictates of grid design.²

Then, in 1858, five local land speculators—Josiah F. Crosby, John S. and Henry S. Gillett, William J. Morton, and Vincent St. Vrain—joined forces with Uncle Billy Smith to form the El Paso Company for the purpose of subdividing and developing the old Ponce tract. They hired Mills to prepare a town plat and offered him \$150 and four lots of the surveyed land for his services. "Mr. Smith was generous, but unbusiness-like," Mills recalled in his memoir *My Story*. "He had given or sold small parcels of land to many who built without any survey having been made.... As the houses had been built at random, without a survey, on plots given by Mr. Smith, the few streets were neither parallel nor at right angles."³

The Mills Plat of 1859 was designed to impose order on the chaos and provide a framework for further growth (see Figure 1). It did end up fulfilling this function, but it also deviated in multiple ways from an "ideal" plat. Not a single street runs in cardinal directions. The north-south streets actually run northwest to southeast and the east-west streets run northeast to southwest. Furthermore, four of the busiest streets—San Francisco, St. Louis (now called Mills) El Paso, and Oregon—converge at the Plaza (now Pioneer Plaza) from irregular directions, a peculiarity that created congestion even before the era of automobiles. Moreover, the Mills Plat lays out two grid systems instead of one: the blocks north of San Francisco and San Antonio streets are oriented to the Public Square (now San Jacinto Plaza), whereas the blocks south of San Francisco and San Antonio are orientated toward Pioneer



Figure 1. The Mills Plat of 1859.
Courtesy of the El Paso County Historical Society.



Figure 2. Mills Plat with Existing Structures Highlighted and Lightened

Plaza. As a result, all of the main north-south thoroughfares—Chihuahua, Santa Fe, Oregon, Utah (now Mesa), Stanton, and Kansas—have to curve at some point to accommodate the crossover from one grid to the other. Finally, the east-west streets in the southern half of the plat are ill-designed for cross-town travel: San Francisco and San Antonio both end abruptly at El Paso Street; Sonora ends one block west of El Paso Street; and Overland jogs when it crosses El Paso Street.

It was the proprietors of the El Paso Company who were responsible for these deviations, not Mills. They wanted a blueprint for future growth, but they wanted even more to avoid chopping up existing properties, removing already built structures, and re-routing well-worn streets. This caused innumerable problems for Mills, as the majority of the town's development had thus far clustered around the oddly shaped Pioneer Plaza and the irregular



Figure 3. "Proposed Plan for the Town of El Paso, designed February 25th, 1859 by Anson Mills." The existing structures have been highlighted and lightened. Photo courtesy of El Paso Public Library.

streets of San Francisco, St. Louis (Mills), and El Paso (see Figure 2). "I had difficulty in making a plan agreeable to the then owners," Mills acknowledged in his memoir. "I made several different sketches before I produced one that all six proprietors adopted and signed. All these original sketches, together with a copy of the first map, are still preserved in the El Paso Public Library."⁴

Unfortunately, the El Paso Public Library now possesses only one of the draft sketches, the others having been lost or misplaced over the decades (see Figure 3). But the surviving sketch is quite revealing because it clearly demonstrates Mills' attempt to plot out a more regular layout for El Paso. It puts the square-shaped San Jacinto Plaza at the center of the downtown district, instead of the misshapen Pioneer Plaza; and it imposes a single grid on the entire town instead of two. It makes just two concessions to property owners. It does not adopt the cardinal directions, but is oriented instead (like San Jacinto Plaza) in a northwestwardly direction. And it leaves El Paso Street untouched, as the sole street that does not conform to the grid (it is not named but it can be seen in the lower left-hand corner of the sketch). Had this draft been accepted, downtown El Paso would more closely approximate the "ideal" of a gridded town, albeit one with a more straightforwardly northwest orientation than it now has (see Figure 4). But one can also readily see why property owners objected to it: it would

have necessitated the demolition of many structures in and around Pioneer Plaza and the reconfiguration of many property lines.

Although Mills' other draft plats no longer exist, one can surmise based on the existing sketch what they might have looked like. It is highly likely that Mills produced at least one draft that oriented the town on a perfect north-south and east-west axis. Such a plat, were it adopted, would have required that the town start virtually from scratch, as none of the existing structures, streets, or plazas followed the cardinal directions. It also seems likely that he produced a draft that eliminated the east-west choke points by straightening and lengthening San Francisco, St. Louis (Mills), San Antonio, and Overland streets. It seems likely too that he roughed out a sketch or two that would have left just the structures immediately around Pioneer Plaza intact, while imposing a single grid everywhere else. This would have been an



Figure 4. The "Proposed Plan" Overlaid on the Mills Plat.

improvement over the two-grid solution, but it would also have necessitated the erasure of several streets and thus have raised the ire of numerous property owners. But nobody will know for sure unless the remaining drafts are found one day in a long forgotten corner of the El Paso Public Library.

The Mills Plat of 1859 was adopted by the six land speculators of the El Paso Company and it did in fact serve as the blueprint for El Paso's growth, as anyone familiar with today's downtown can readily recognize. To be sure, the acequias (irrigation ditches) are long gone, as are the cottonwoods and ashes that once lined their banks. A few street names here and there have also been changed: St. Louis Street is now Mills Street (in honor of Anson Mills), Utah Street is now Mesa Avenue (because the name Utah became too associated with the town's red light district), and Organ Street is now North El Paso Street (because Organ too closely resembled the adjacent street Oregon). And in 1911 San Antonio Street was extended west of El Paso Street, though it (like nearby Overland) jogs. A few other property adjustments have occurred as well, especially in and around Pioneer Plaza. For the most part, however, the town emerged precisely as the Mills Plat foresaw, spreading outward from Pioneer Plaza and San Jacinto Plaza in all directions. A visitor could easily navigate his or her way around downtown El Paso today with just the Mills Plat and a compass in hand.

ENDNOTES

- 1 For a full discussion of Native American conflicts with Mexico and the United States in the borderlands, see Brian Delay, *War of a Thousand Deserts: Indian Raids and the U.S.-Mexican War* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008), especially pp. 141-310; and William B. Griffen, *Utmost Good Faith: Patterns of Apache-Mexican Hostilities in Northern Chihuahua Border Warfare, 1921-1848* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1988).
- 2 J. J. Bowden, *The Ponce de Leon Land Grant*, *Southwestern Studies*, No. 24 (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1969), pp. 3-12.
- 3 Anson Mills, *My Story*, *Frontier Classics Series* (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2003 [1918]), pp. 52-53.
- 4 *Ibid.*, 53-54.



Hall of Honor Nominations

The El Paso County Historical Society accepts nominations from the general public as well as from Society members for the Hall of Honor. One living and one or two deceased persons will be remembered and honored at the Society's annual banquet in November. Nominations may be made for one or both categories. Nominees must be (1) outstanding men or women of character, vision, courage and creative spirit who have lived in what is presently El Paso County, (2) who have consistently done the unusual which deserves to be written or recorded, or who have created that which deserves to be read, heard, or seen, and who have made El Paso County better for their having lived in it; and (3) who have influenced over a period of years the course of history of El Paso County, or by their singular achievements have brought honor and recognition to the El Paso community, and (4) who have directed us toward worthy goals and merit being remembered by all El Pasoans as an exemplary guide to our future.

All nominations must be accompanied by a biographical resume that includes pertinent information about the nominee and the reasons for nominating him or her. Please include the nominee's address and phone number if living, date of death if deceased, date and place of birth, years of residence in El Paso County, profession, and name and address of nearest known relative(s). The person making the nomination must give his or her name and phone number and mail all information to Chairman, Hall of Honor Selection Committee, El Paso County Historical Society, P.O. Box 28, El Paso, Texas 79940 by July 1 of each year.

HALL OF HONOR NOMINATION FORM

LIVING NOMINEE:

Name _____

Address (including zip code) _____

Birthplace _____ Years Residence in El Paso _____ Profession _____

Nearest Relative _____ Address _____

DECEASED NOMINEE:

Name _____

Place and Date of Birth _____ Date and Place of Death _____

Years of Residence in El Paso County _____ Profession _____

Nearest Living Relative or Close Friend _____ Phone No. _____

Address (including zip code) _____

NOMINATOR:

Name _____

Phone No. _____ Date _____

Publicity Brochures Produced to Advertise El Paso Before 1935

By Patricia H. Worthington

(Please note: All photographs are from the Worthington Collection.)



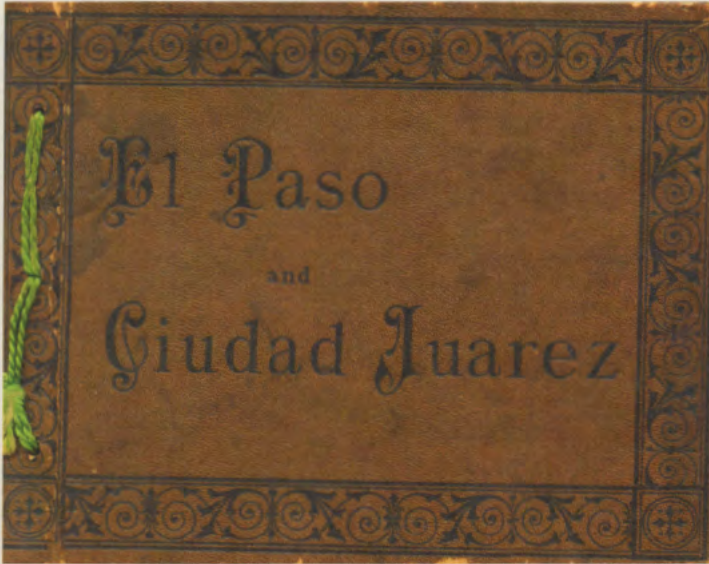
As El Paso developed in the late 1800s, it produced numerous advertising brochures in order to entice visitors to come. Featured here are pictures from a number of brochures published during this period. In 1886 the Times Publishing Company printed "The City and County of El Paso, Texas, Containing Useful and Reliable Information Concerning, The Future Great Metropolis of the Southwest, Its Resources and Advantages for the Agriculturist, Artisan and Capitalist." This item was printed both as a separate piece and in the city directory for 1886. It is not pictured in this article.



The above 1887 brochure (*pictured on page 61*) was produced in a rich red and featured pictures of early El Paso and Ciudad Juárez. Below is a picture of the newly built county court house. This advertising piece was produced by Ward Brothers of Columbus, Ohio. The company produced view albums of all American cities. The dialogue in this book extolled the growth of El Paso in the short time that the railroad had entered the city. It also featured the Myar's Opera House, some panoramic views of the city, homes, and, of course, Ciudad Juárez.



The same photograph as above appeared in the lead in the *El Paso and Ciudad Juárez* souvenir album published in 1905. However, a picture of the El Paso Smelting Works, "three miles from center of the city," was featured next. The album was produced by the Arthur A. King Co. of El Paso; however, there is no company by that name in the city directory for 1905. It was printed in Germany.



EL PASO, TEXAS.

El Paso, or "the Pass" in Spanish, is situated in the extreme western part of Texas, bounded by New Mexico on the north and the State of Chihuahua on the south, the Rio Grande constituting the boundary between United States and Mexico.

El Paso on account of its geographical situation is the most historical city in the United States. It was at this point that Brigadier General Sterling Price, during his memorable march across the plain with his regiment, accompanied by the "Missouri Horse," under Col. Hain, crossed Mexico. The United States recognizing its military, strategic and geographical importance, as early as 1856, established a military post, which to-day—Fort Bliss is one of the most important in the United States.

In 1875, when first railroads were projected, this city had a population of 500, the nearest being El Paso. To-day with the Southern Pacific from the West, The A. T. & S. P. and T. & P. from the East, the A. T. & S. P. from the North, The Mexican Central from the South, the Rio Grande Sierra Madre & Pacific R.R. from the Pacific and the White Oaks in prospect, this city has a steady growth on its own assets and has a population of over 15,000 inhabitants. With the prospect of the building of an International Dock by the United States and Mexican Governments, three miles from the city it will be one of the finest and most restorative health resorts in the world, being 5,700 feet above the level of the sea, with dry soil and atmosphere and clear sky, there is never any smog.

Annual climate changes prepared by Dr. Alfred E. Houghton, of Chicago, is as follows:

Comp. moisture and dryness of locality.....	100
For rain, heavy weather.....	25
Relative humidity.....	47
Index of snow and rain.....	11
Index of minimum degree.....	46
Index of maximum degree.....	70
Daily range of temperature.....	24
Meridian slope and level.....	3,766

El Paso has six school houses, accommodating 300 scholars, Court House and City Hall, two opera houses, several hotels, International Street Car line, two municipal parks, El Paso Police Department, Federal Building, seven hotels, two National banks and two private banks.

COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

In December, '81, when the county seat at El Paso was transferred to El Paso, the enterprising citizens at once projected the building of this fine structure which was finished in 1882. It is built of brick and iron, and the bright trim base to dome is of steel. In this building all the county officers are headquartered, such as County Court, District Court, Collector and Assessor, County Clerk, Surveyor, Sheriff, County Commissioners Court, etc. The building stands in the middle of a square block.



EL PASO SHELDON HOTEL, TO RIO GRANDE, 1 MILE, FROM CENTER OF CITY

Other pictures from this brochure include Myar's Opera House, the corner of San Antonio and El Paso Streets, the Federal Building and Sheldon Hotel, Fort Bliss, the railroads, and the Plaza to mention a few.

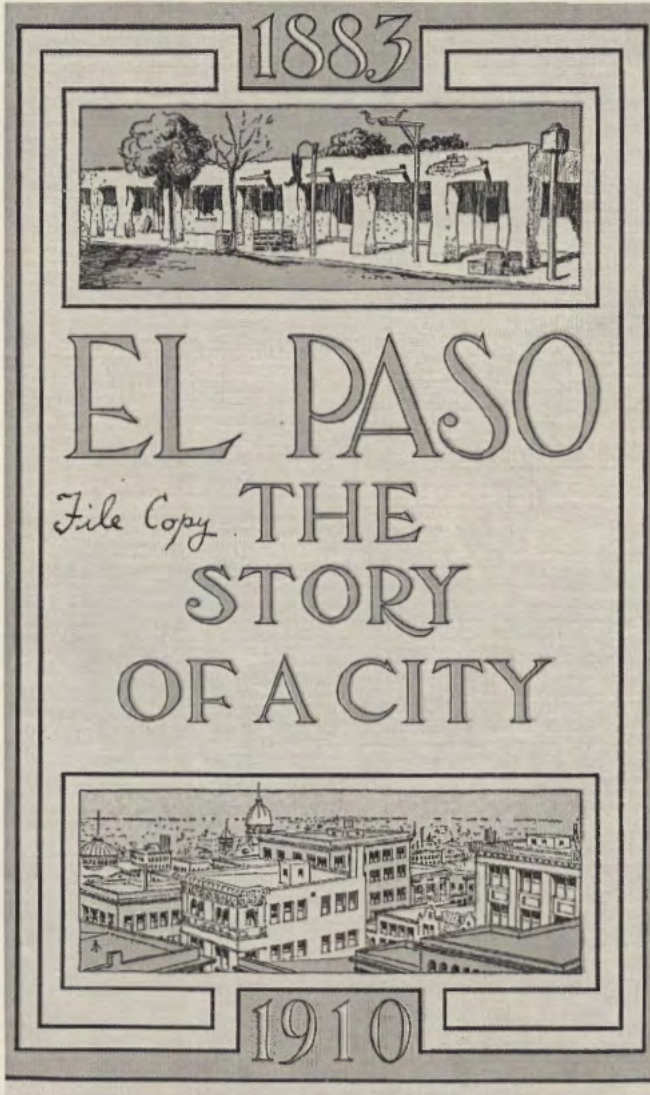


One of the prettiest and best photographic brochures was produced by The Albotype Company of Brooklyn, New York. No date is given in the brochure shown. It has fewer photographs in it, but they are definitely better quality. It covers El Paso only.



VIEW OF EL PASO. Mount Franklin in Distance.

This Albertype photograph shows the Orndorf Hotel in the lower right corner, the Plaza across the street, the El Paso Southwestern Building across the railroad tracks from the hotel, and running east-west, the railroad tracks (*see page 64*). The crossing box is visible at the street junction. This was a time before crossing arms. The left side features the Hotel Angelus, and between it and the EPSW Building are railroad offices.



In 1910 the El Paso Chamber of Commerce produced *El Paso The Story of a City* (pictured on page 65). It was printed by the El Paso Printing Company, Booklet Printers. It is a 48-page booklet with a very good map showing territory tributary to El Paso inserted at the back. It provides geographical, financial, industrial and agricultural information and states that they are "Just Plain Untarnished Facts to Make 'The Story of A City' Interesting to Capitalists and Homeseekers." It is filled with pictures and descriptions from throughout the area.

In approximately 1916 the El Paso Chamber of Commerce again produced a brochure titled "El Paso Texas, Metropolis of the Great Southwest." It is a photograph booklet with only one page of dialogue. The photographs, however, were provided by the Albertype Company of Brooklyn, New York.



Henry S. Beach created this brochure that was printed by The Albertype Company of Brooklyn, New York. It was published by the El Paso Chamber of Commerce. All but one of the pictures are from El Paso. The Mission Guadalupe from Ciudad Juárez was included as the last photograph. It was published around 1925 and included new places not seen in other publications, such as



HOSPITAL HOTEL DIEU



THE COLLEGE OF MINES AND METALLURGY UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

El Paso High School, Houston Square, Washington Park, Hospital Hotel Dieu, The College of Mines and Metallurgy, Loretto College and Academy, Fort Bliss, a cotton field, and the newly constructed Elephant Butte Dam. Two of these photographs are below (*see page 67*). The first is Hotel Dieu and the second the newly built campus of the College of Mines and Metallurgy.

In the late teens and ending in 1923, the Gateway Club of El Paso, Texas began printing brochures extolling the benefits of the city. The club began its first issue with the following statement:

Publishing this little book is, perhaps, prompted first by our pride in El Paso and the beneficial effects of our sunshine climate, but we would not ask you to read it if we were not firmly convinced that you too may be benefited in a very material way by the messages pages contain.

El Paso's civic leaders comprised the board of the Gateway Club. C. N. Bassett, J. W. Laws, M.D., James L. Marr, Winchester Cooley, H. L. Birney, Alba H. Warren, George B. Ryan, and August Wolf were the officers and board that published the first issue. The second and third issues listed R. W. McAfee, Dr. C. M. Hendricks, J. E. Benton, C. H. Leavell, M. Coblenz, Dr. R. L. Ramey, and Tom P. Walker as the officers and board members. Their headquarters were in the Chamber of Commerce building.

There were a total of three brochures. The first was "Filling the Sunshine Prescription." The second was "Farming that Pays," and the third "El Paso and the New Southwest." All three were descriptive of their titles and contained numerous photographs.

"Filling the Sunshine Prescription" promoted the sanatoria of the El Paso area and featured such important factors to the tubercular patient as climate, location, and, most important, sunshine. "The Sunshine Prescription" began as follows: "The Sunshine Prescription, endorsed by the world's leading medical authorities, is filled in a very complete and efficient way by our locality. Every ingredient required in the treatment of tuberculosis, asthma, bronchitis and debilitated conditions which may bring on such diseases is here." Afterwards, there was a list featuring low humidity, maximum sunshine, light rainfall, moderate temperature, and moderate altitude. It then proceeded to give a meteorological summary and climatic comparison. Afterwards, there was a description of the city and its surrounding area, noting how pleasant and interesting the city was.



FILLING
the SUNSHINE
PRESCRIPTION

"Farming that Pays" was the second of the three brochures. Its opening page is featured below:

Farming that PAYS

Farming PAYS on El Paso Irrigated Farms.

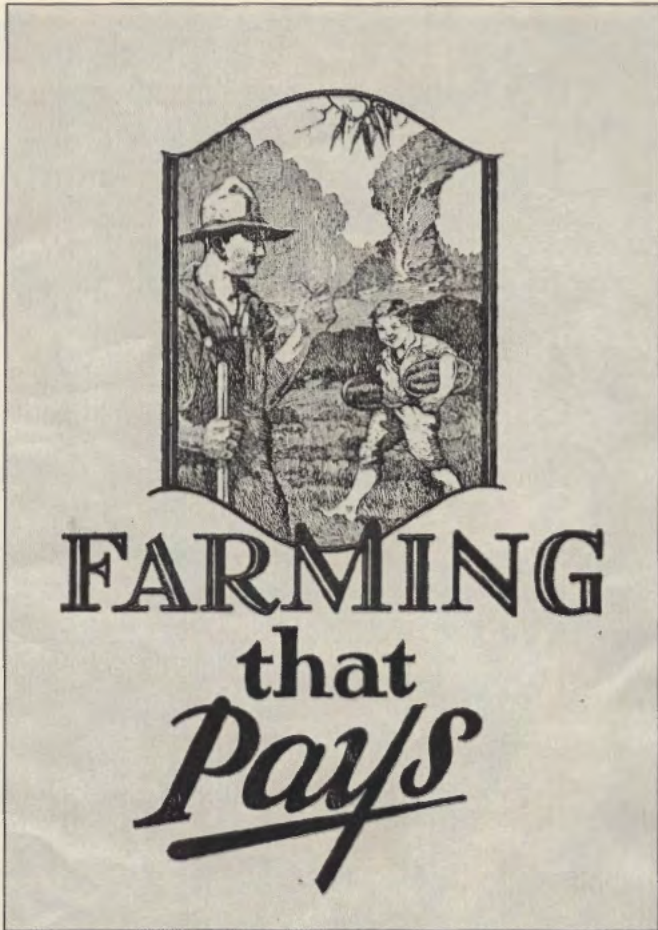
That is the great fact we ask you to bear in mind while you read the succeeding pages. Glowing pictures and fancy descriptions have little or nothing to do with the main question, "Does it PAY?" That is what you want to know. That is what this book tells you.

The rich river-silt lands of the Rio Grande Valley and the mild, year-round climate, have been here for centuries—without water. The completion of the Elephant Butte Irrigation Project, under the largest man-made body of water in the world, in the United States Reclamation Service, has opened these lands to cultivation. The soil is rich and deep. Water is plentiful, cheap, and you get it when you want it. The cost of the land is low and it is sold on reasonable terms. An amazing variety of crops grow on these lands. Labor is plentiful and cheap.

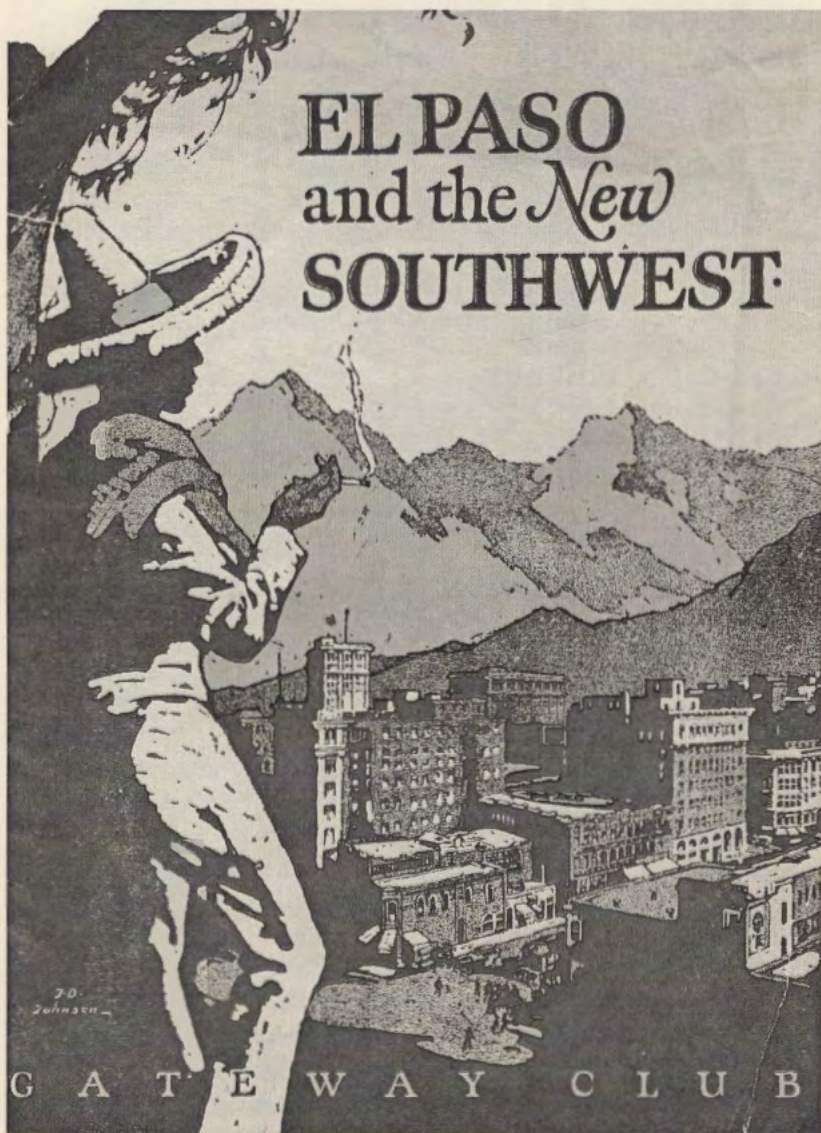
How the Gateway Club Can Help You

The Gateway Club of El Paso is a non-profit organization, owning no land. Our purpose is to assist you in learning just exactly what is here and why it PAYS on El Paso Irrigated Farms and to assist you in any possible way when you come here. To give you the exact facts, impartially presented, we have had them collected by disinterested experts. You may rely upon every statement in this book. Read it carefully and then write and tell us how we can further serve you. Here you are close to your markets, close to a splendid city of 100,000 with every possible advantage, away from bleak winters, in a climate ideal for crops and health. Can you fairly ask more? Come with us and farm where farming PAYS. Read this book first—then let us hear from you.

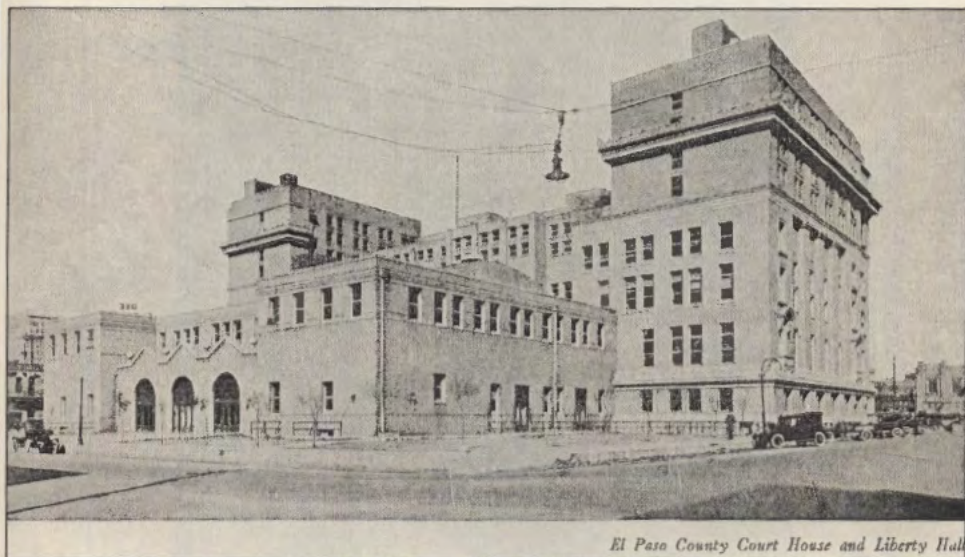
The brochure went on to describe irrigated farms, proper transportation, government water supplies, soils, yearly rainfall, crops, educational facilities, financial requirements, agricultural items to plant, cattle, poultry and swine industries. There is a small map at the end of the brochure.



The third brochure was titled "El Paso and the New Southwest" (see page 72). It was published in 1924. Basically it was a literary summary of the previous brochures but was much more general in nature. There were more photographs of the city but not of the lower valley. At the end it featured a "Stopover Privilege." Any ticket agent in the United States would arrange a stopover of ten days in El Paso if the request was made at the time of the ticket purchase. The traveler had to take a southern route and remain for ten days in El Paso, "The Queen City of the Lone Star State."

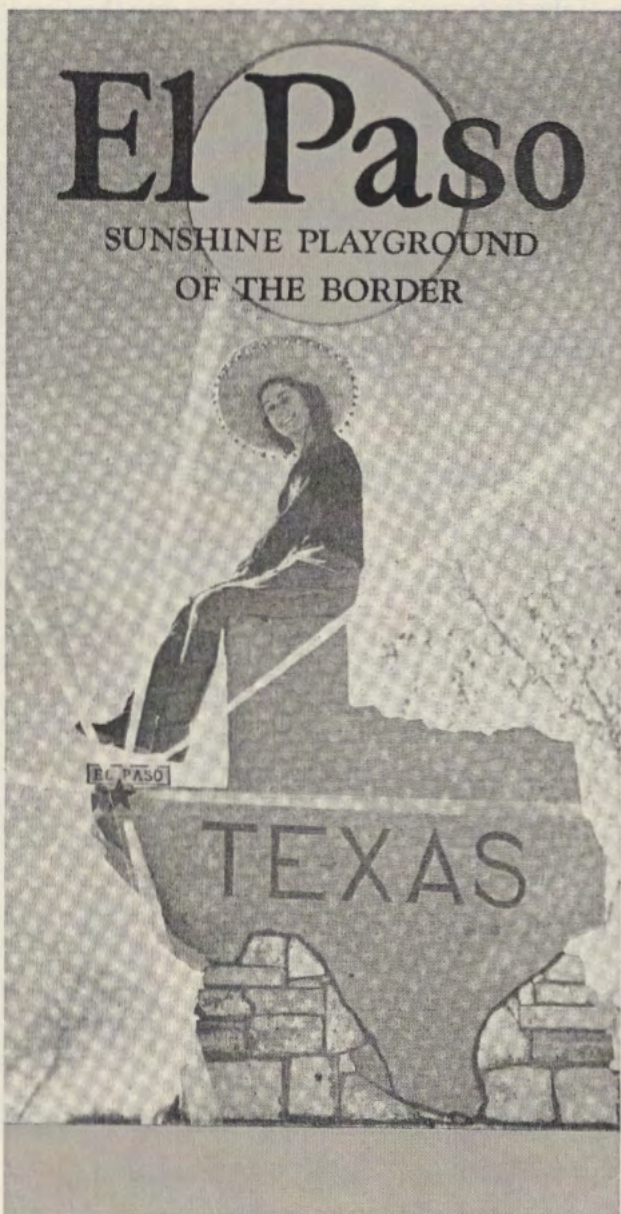


One of the features in this publication was the County Court House and Liberty Hall.



El Paso County Court House and Liberty Hall

The final brochure produced by the Gateway Club was more a flier than a brochure. It was published in the late 1930s. It featured a map going from the east to the west coasts for the World's Fair of 1939. It also has a map inside titled "A Map of El Paso, Showing Principal Streets; also, How to Get into the City, and, if you MUST Leave, How to Get Out." There was basic information about the area, and the edges were filled with local photographs. It was very much smaller than any brochures produced during earlier decades. This flier and map are featured below (*see page 74*).





Publicity brochures were continually produced by El Pasoans. They still are, but very few contain the marvelous photographs of the early era. Practically none have any humor in them.

PATRICIA HAESLY WORTHINGTON is the curator and Honorary Editor of *Password* for the El Paso County Historical Society. She is the author of several articles about El Paso history and also serves on the Archives Committee for the Texas State Historical Association.



Lecturas

Recently published books and articles of interest to El Paso.

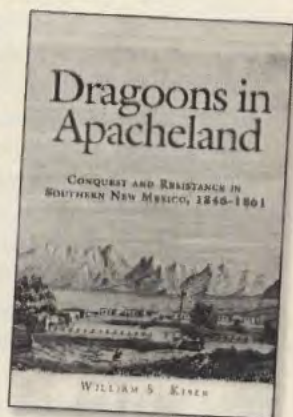
- Cooper, Clarence. **Sawdust and Revolutions: The Mexican Experience of C. H. Cooper, 1911-1950.** El Paso: s.n., 2014. [The author, a UTEP Physics professor, gives us an account of his father's life during a turbulent period of Mexican history. The book draws on family papers and local historical collections.]
- Campbell, C.E. **Mines, Cattle, and Rebellion: The History of the Corralitos Ranch.** Sunset Beach, CA: Green Street Publications, 2104. [This lengthy volume includes information about El Paso connections to a large cattle ranch in Chihuahua.]
- Glasrud, Bruce A. (ed.) **African American History in New Mexico: Portraits from Five Hundred Years.** Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2013. [Contributors to this volume describe the lives of Blacks from Spanish colonial times to the twentieth century, covering social, political, and military topics relating to African-Americans in New Mexico.]
- Márquez, Benjamin. **Democratizing Texas Politics: Race, Identity, and Mexican-American Empowerment, 1945-2002.** Austin: University of Texas Press, 2014. [Prof. Márquez gives examples from across Texas, but talks about events and individuals relating to El Paso such as Tati Santiesteban.]
- Martínez-Catsam, Ana. "The Spanish Influenza of 1918." *Journal of the West*, Winter 2013, Vol. 52, Issue 1, pp. 65-71. [This article discusses the role of the El Paso Morning Times during the Spanish flu outbreak of 1918 and how the paper relayed public health information and reported on humanitarian efforts of Olga Kohlberg.]
- McCown, Dennis. **The Goddess of War: A True Story of Passion, Betrayal, and Murder in the Old West.** Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 2013. [The life of Helen Beulah Mrose, the mistress of John Wesley Hardin, provides the subject matter for this book.]
- Overmyer-Velázquez, Mark. "Good Neighbors and White Mexicans: Constructing Race and Nation on the Mexico-U.S. Border." *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Vol. 33, No 1 (Fall 2013), pp. 5-34. [This article discusses the implications of the reclassification of Mexicans from "White" to "Colored" in El Paso during the 1930s.]
- Santiago Quijada, Guadalupe. **Políticas Federales e Intervención Empresarial en la Configuración Urbana de Ciudad Juárez, 1940-1992.** Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua: Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez/El Colegio de Michoacán, 2013. [The author analyzes the commercial development of Cd. Juárez, including the establishment of the maquila industry in the mid-twentieth century.]
- Young, Janine. **Diocese of El Paso: Centennial History. Strasbourg, France: Editions du Signe, 2013.** Photographs by Christ Chavez. [This book, the first comprehensive account of the history of the El Paso Catholic Diocese, is profusely illustrated and is also available in a Spanish-language version.]

Book Reviews

DRAGOONS IN APACHELAND: CONQUEST AND RESISTANCE IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO, 1846-1861. By William S. Kiser. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013. ISBN 0806143142 or ISBN 978-0806143149. Hardcover \$26.96

In *Dragoons in Apacheland: Conquest and Resistance in Southern New Mexico, 1846-1861*, William S. Kiser recounts the conflicts and intercultural relationships among the peoples of southern New Mexico during the years between the U.S.-Mexico War and the American Civil War. Kiser argues that these wars represent key "turning points" in Anglo-Apache relations as American soldiers, bureaucrats, and new settlers entered the New Mexico territory in record numbers. This fact resulted in Apaches both diplomatically and violently resisting American attacks on their people, resources, and traditional way of life. Kiser's impressive primary source research and clearly written historical narrative details how "violence became a defining characteristic of the antebellum southwestern frontier." Throughout the work, Kiser also examines the continual disagreements between the American civil and military authorities in New Mexico, and how their bureaucratic manipulations, general incompetence, differing ideologies, and cultural ignorance about the Apaches complicated policies and practices as well as regularly produced violent and tragic outcomes. *Dragoons in Apacheland* is especially notable for its descriptions of the miserable conditions that the American dragoons often experienced, the thoughtful presentation of the Apaches' viewpoints and culture, and for its strong environmental history perspective, which contextualizes the natural landscape's critical role in shaping conquest, conflict, and resistance.

— Abbie Weiser



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LAST TRAIN TO EL PASO: THE MYSTERIOUS UNSOLVED MURDER OF A CATTLE BARON. By Jerry J. Lobdill. Fort Worth: Cross Timbers Press, 2014. ISBN 1495431843 or ISBN 978-1495431845. Paperback \$22.46

Thomas Lyons, a New Mexico cattle baron, was murdered in El Paso on the evening of May 17, 1917. He was knocked unconscious with a hammer near the Union Depot and then driven to the northeastern part of town, where he was finished off with a reinforced iron bar. His crushed skull and mutilated body was discovered the next morning in an arroyo near Fort Bliss. El Paso police cracked the case a couple weeks later and arrested Felix R. Jones for the murder. He was convicted in El Paso's 34th District Court in February 1918 and sentenced to 25 years in the Huntsville penitentiary. Case closed.



So, why does the title of Jerry Lobdill's splendid new book on the Lyons case include the phrase "unsolved murder"? The answer, as he amply demonstrates, is that the murder was not the work of a lone gunman but of a conspiracy. Jones was merely a hit man, who was paid \$2000 to lure Lyons into a deadly ambush under the pretext of arranging a big cattle deal. We know this because William Gherome (W. G.) Clark, himself a hired gun, betrayed Jones in order to collect the \$10,000 reward that the Lyons family was offering to anyone who could solve the murder. Clark's testimony also implicated Thomas Coggin, a small-time rancher and cattle dealer, as the man who paid Jones for the murder; and his brother Millard Coggin, who had rented the Buick in which Lyons was rendered unconscious (the hammer was still in the car's tool box; human blood and hair matching the deceased was found on the hammer and elsewhere in the car; and parts of the blood-stained floor rug had been removed). Ghosting behind the murder scene was Thomas Alexander (T. A.) Morrison, well known to police as a murder-for-hire middleman; James Monroe (J. M.) Daugherty, a cattleman who paid Millard Coggin's and T.A. Morrison's bond (and who also did his best to remain incognito); and a handful of other characters from the cattle-rustling-cum-cattle-dealing netherworld. Yet, nobody in law enforcement ever figured out who (or what group) shelled out the big bucks for the murder and the cover up. Both Jones and the Coggin brothers got first-class defense attorneys free of charge. Defense witnesses got all of their

expenses paid. Jones somehow managed to mount a lengthy and expensive appeal. And then, when all else failed, someone mysteriously purchased a pardon for Jones in 1926 from Governor Miriam "Ma" Ferguson.

Lobdill's book is above all preoccupied with a related mystery: Why did El Paso District Attorney Leigh Clark stop after he had prosecuted Jones? Why didn't he at least go after the Coggin brothers as accessories to the murder and perhaps also Morrison and Daugherty? Lobdill's answer is that District Attorney Clark and Judge Walter D. Howe (who presided over the 34th District Court) feared for their lives because most of the suspected co-conspirators had once worked for the notorious "Killin' Jim" Miller and were thus skilled in the art of deadly intimidation. This is a plausible but ultimately unsatisfying answer, as Lobdill is unable to provide any direct or indirect proof that either Clark or Howe (or their families) were in any way threatened by anyone. A different answer is also plausible: the District Attorney may simply have concluded (correctly or incorrectly) that the evidence against the co-conspirators was too circumstantial to hold up in court. Still, the great thing about this book is that you don't have to accept Lobdill's explanation in order to enjoy his multi-faceted and nuanced rendition of events. Thanks to him, the 1917 Lyons case will finally find its rightful place in the pantheon of unsolved murders that occurred in the cattle lands of the American Southwest in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Move over Albert Fountain. There's a new mystery to solve.

— *Dr. Mark Cioc-Ortega*

MARK CIOC-ORTEGA is Chair and Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and the author of numerous books and articles on European and American history.



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